

# THE RIO NEWS.

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VOL. IX.

RIO DE JANEIRO, AUGUST 24TH, 1882

NUMBER 24

## OFFICIAL DIRECTORY

AMERICAN LEGATION — 7, Rua Nova das Laranjeiras.  
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BRITISH LEGATION — No 8, Travessa de D. Manoel.  
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Limited Express: Upward, leaves Rio 7:15 a.m., arriving at Barra 10:25 a.m., Rio Novo (central line) 7:07, Cachoeira (S. Paulo branch) 5:25 p.m., Povoação, leaves Cachoeira 6:45 a.m., Rio Novo 5:00 a.m., arriving at Barra 12:42 and 1:57 p.m., Rio 5:45 p.m. Stops at all stations. Connects with Santos, Cruz branch at Sapopemba, and Macaé branch at Belém.  
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Suburban Trains — Passenger trains leave at 6:00, 6:30, 7:40, 8:40 and 10:22 a.m., and 1:00, 2:15, 3:30, 4:30, 5:50, 7:30, 8:30 and 10:00 p.m. all stopping at Cascadura except the 10 p.m. train, which runs to Sapopemba. Returning, the trains leave Sapopemba at 3:30 and Cascadura at 3:50, 6:10, 7:40, 8:40, 10 and 11:35 a.m., and 2:10, 3:20, 4:30, 5:30, 7, 8:30 and 9:40 p.m.  
CANTAGALLO R.R. — Leaves Niterói Santa Anna 7:30 a.m., arriving at Nova Friburgo 4:25 and Macaé 5:45 p.m. Return train leaves Macaé 6:30, Cordeira 7:50 and Nova Friburgo 11:20 a.m., arriving at Niterói 4:35 p.m. A ferry boat runs between Rio and Santa Anna, connecting with trains.  
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# THE RIO NEWS

PUBLISHED TRIWEEKLY

on the eve of departure of the American packet, the French packet of the 15th, and Horat. Mail packet of the 24th. of the month.

A. J. LAMOUREUX, Editor and Proprietor.

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RIO DE JANEIRO, AUGUST 24TH, 1882.

THE recent movement in this country in favor of employing the electric light for the purposes of public illumination brings up again the question of the new patent law now quietly sleeping in the Chamber of Deputies. Inasmuch as it was determined to draw the line at the introduction of electric light patents into Brazil, and to delay them until the passage of a new law, it was certainly to be expected that urgency would be required for the consideration of the new project. This project has finally been passed by the Senate, and is now awaiting action in the Chamber. In the meantime the city of Campos is patiently awaiting a solution of the question so that it can acquire a plant for the electric light, and the cities of Ouro Preto and Porto Alegre are making inquiries with the same object in view. It ought to be apparent therefore that no time should be lost in granting these privileges, for it is now a matter of interest to the country as well as to the inventors. There is no longer any doubt as to the utility and economy of electricity for the purpose of public illumination, and for use in offices and shops its superiority has been demonstrated beyond all question. In this country, where coal is so dear and where the gas companies are so badly managed and exacting, the introduction of the electric light would be of incalculable benefit. Especially would this be so in the province of Rio Grande do Sul where there is now so great difficulty and expense in securing sufficient coal, and where the companies have so seriously handicapped themselves by the investment of "supplementary" capital. In this city the capital invested is largely out of proportion to the real value of the plant, and upon this excessive capital the consumer is compelled to pay interest. It is a gross injustice that the public should be compelled to pay interest upon fictitious investments of this character, but as they are legalized monopolies and as there is as yet no substitute within reach the people are compelled to bear them as best they can. Were the legislature to grant privileges for the introduction of the electric light there would at once be some relief. It is a measure of so great importance to the public that we do not see how the Chamber can defer action much longer.

A COMPANY is being formed in Chili, it is stated, for the purpose of establishing a line of tug steamers through the Straits of Magellan. The company hopes to obviate the passage of sailing vessels round Cape Horn.

AMONG the parliamentary incidents of the 18th instant was one which has a curious history and which reflects very little credit upon the imperial government. It is a curious fact that throughout all its existence and in all its dealings the imperial government of Brazil has had the strange fatality of always doing the wrong thing. In all its dealings, whether at home or abroad, its every step seems to be marked by duplicity and injustice. Sweeping as this statement may seem, it is utterly impossible to draw any other conclusion. The little transaction of less than twenty years ago in which five millions sterling were borrowed for the purpose of building a railway to Mato Grosso and then spent in the war and navy departments, has often been the subject of comment and unfavorable criticism. A case still more flagrant, and of much longer standing, has again been brought to notice by Deputy Almeida Oliveira by the introduction of a bill for the repayment of a large sum of money received for a special purpose from the cotton planters of Maranhão some sixty years ago. It seems that the cotton planters of that province desired to have the Arapapahy channel opened and improved, and for that purpose they raised the sum of 621,403\$523 by voluntary subscriptions. This sum of money was deposited in the imperial treasury for meeting the expenses of the desired work. In 1826 the government was petitioned for a return of the money or the execution of the work for which it was subscribed. After a delay of four years the legislature finally passed a law under which a part of the money was refunded, but leaving the larger part in the treasury on deposit. After a lapse of fifty-two years the Maranhão deputation now ask for the restoration of 469,470\$781, the balance of the money deposited in the treasury some sixty years ago, and in so doing they find it necessary to make promises to expend the money on the opening of this same canal and on improvements to the harbor of Maranhão. Why it is that this money has been kept all these years, without either employing it as originally specified, or returning it as the only alternative, it would be difficult to conceive. The money is not and never was a part of the public funds; it was simply a private and voluntary subscription in aid of a local improvement. The money, however, has been retained by the state for its own uses, and the improvements have never been made. In private affairs this act would be politely termed a breach of trust, and the dictionary unfortunately gives no milder synonym for use when a government is the guilty party. This money never was justly the property of the state, and yet it holds on to it as though it were in reality a part of the public funds. It is inconceivable why the whole amount was not returned in 1830, when the government substantially acknowledged its intention not to make the improvements specified by a partial return of the cash. If then the government has had no intention to open the Arapapahy channel, why has this money been kept all these years? It is a good illustration of the mistaken idea of government which has fastened itself upon Brazil—an idea which places the executive and legislative departments outside the ordinary rules of conduct, and beyond all responsibility for their acts.

For some time past one of the most common items of news in our provincial exchanges is that relating to the existence and steady increase of small-pox in various parts of the empire. There is probably not one single province which is now free from it, while its ravages in the most populous cities such as Rio de Janeiro, Bahia and Pernambuco are matters of every-day record. In this city the death rate of this terrible

disease has been large enough to excite grave apprehensions, especially because of its existence in the lower quarters where the sanitary condition of the people is of the worst possible character. An epidemic disease in these localities is naturally a source of the greatest danger, not only because of the difficulty in stamping it out, but primarily because of its liability to break out into a more malignant character at any moment. The poverty of the people and the conditions of life surrounding them are all favorable to the existence and propagation of infectious diseases, and for this reason the appearance of one single case should always be met with prompt measures for repression. Instead of this, the disease has been permitted to spread with only the feeblest efforts to check it. How widely it may now be scattered throughout the city it is impossible to say, but we shall be safe in saying that it exists in several of the most dangerous localities of the city from which it is possible to break out into a general epidemic at any moment. The past season has been an unusually healthy one and the city has been unusually clean, for which reason the epidemic is undoubtedly less general than it would otherwise have been. Had the health authorities been as active as they should have been, these favorable conditions would have assisted materially in stamping out the disease. Good weather and clean streets are not fixed conditions in Rio de Janeiro, as the health authorities well know. We shall soon have the hot season and with it the stenches and filth which always accompany it, and then the work of keeping down disease will be a matter of much greater difficulty. Then, too, in its broader aspects, this question of the existence of small-pox in the provinces should excite far more attention than it has thus far done. In the province of Rio de Janeiro it exists in a most malignant form in several localities. It exists in various localities in São Paulo, and has recently appeared in the city of Campinas. It exists in various localities in Paraná, Santa Catharina and Rio Grande do Sul. It exists in the city of Bahia, and in the neighboring village of Santo Amaro it has lately caused a terrible loss of life. In Pernambuco, too, it has had a sluggish existence, and in some of the small cities and villages of that province it has raged with great severity. And in nearly everyone of the smaller provinces of the north reports have come to us of the appearance of this disease. In view of these facts it would seem most necessary that prompt measures should be taken to meet and check the general propagation of this disease throughout the country. It certainly is increasing at an alarming rate, and now occupies a vantage ground for causing a terrible epidemic whenever the conditions become most favorable. It may be deemed foolish to forbode evil in this matter, but with small-pox existing everywhere about us and with the possibility of a general epidemic overhanging us it is something about which men can afford to be foolish.

The present session of the General Assembly is steadily moving on toward an early conclusion, and yet nothing has thus far been done toward a solution of the important question of emancipation. It was distinctly announced by the present prime minister that the government would interpose no objections to the consideration of this question in the interests of an earlier abolition of slavery. On the contrary it was asserted that the prime minister is himself heartily in favor of hastening emancipation, and would assist any measure for that end as far as it is possible for him to do. Notwithstanding all this, however, no measure has been introduced into parliament for hastening emancipation, and no interest

whatever is shown in the question. From the attitude of parliament at this moment one might think that there was no such eventuality as an approaching cessation of production. Both senators and deputies amuse themselves with oratorical debates on political questions, and the government goes placidly on its way as though the Almighty had just guaranteed a century of prosperity to the country. It is now more than ever apparent how completely the abolitionists were defeated in the last elections. The really active and energetic leaders of the movement were overwhelmingly defeated at the polls, the anti-slavery society from which so much was expected soon went out of existence, the movement was almost totally crushed. A few societies built upon social or local bases have continued to exist, but their work has been spasmodic and of little influence outside of the organizations themselves. In the General Assembly, where the work must largely be carried on, there seems to be not one single abolitionist worthy of the name. The advocacy of abolition principles by Senator Silveira Martins was never considered to be anything more than a move on the political chess-board. It follows therefore that this one most important question, upon which hangs the fate of this empire in the very near future, is left absolutely unnoticed. It is nothing less than the blindest folly. Slavery never yet passed out of a country without some kind of a convulsion. It is an evil which never can be blotted out without loss and sacrifice. If Brazilian legislators believe that slavery will quietly pass away under the provisions of the law of 1871, they are certainly nursing a delusion. As the end approaches, and long before the time anticipated by the slaveholders, the slaves will themselves see the gross injustice of this lingering, dribbling emancipation, and will break their chains with life and blood. It is absolutely impossible for any class or race of men to rest quiet under the prolonged torture of so gradual an emancipation. We can not conceive a degradation so deep that it would not be stirred to vengeance and revolt by this lingering refinement of cruelty. And yet nothing is done! The industries of the country are still dependent upon slave labor; the planters are buying and selling their laborers as though emancipation were never dreamed of; and nothing effectual is being done to build up a strong system of free labor to take the place of the slave. It is sheer madness! Were we to say that slavery in Brazil will not continue ten years longer, few if any Brazilians would believe the assertion. And yet nothing is more evident than that the present system can not outlive that period. It may be—as we sincerely hope—that the Brazilian people will eventually take the final step themselves and give freedom to the fourteen hundred thousand slaves still owned by them. If they do not, the slaves will certainly take that step for themselves. The desire for freedom must necessarily grow stronger every day, and with the increasing number of freedmen and the consequent familiarity with the privileges and benefits of freedom, will soon come the irresistible impulse to possess that one great boon, whatever may be the cost. Freedom is a possession for which men have fought ever since the world began, and its value has grown no less in the eyes of men with the lapse of time.

THE recent occurrences in Pernambuco over the imposition of additional taxes upon imports, and the subsequent action of the government in suspending the law, has created an impression that the Pernambuco measure is a new one and that it has been very properly nipped at the outset by the imperial government. These taxes how-

ever are nothing new in the provincial legislation of Pernambuco, nor in that of Bahia, nor in that of almost every province in the empire. As long as no complaints were made these additional taxes were levied with impunity, even with the evident knowledge that they were illegal and oppressive. That they are nothing new will be seen by a comparison of this year's tariff, which we publish in another column, with the same tariff of last year published in our issue of July 24, 1881. We then took occasion to call attention to the matter in the following terms:

The list of additional duties imposed upon imports by the province of Pernambuco, which we give elsewhere, should open the eyes of the imperial government not only to the illegality of the proceeding, but also to the inapplicable fact that the people are being taxed beyond all reason and justice.

A comparison of the tariffs of these two years will show that there is only a very slight difference between them, and that the same reason existed then as now for complaint. In fact, for many years past this same tax has been imposed and collected. It has taken a long time to stir the people of Pernambuco up to the point of making a vigorous protest, and the success which has attended the effort will undoubtedly cause not a few regrets that the step was not taken before. Their opposition to this tax is so just and well founded that it is a cause for profound wonder that they have submitted to it for so long a time. The tax is clearly illegal, and has long been a crushing burden upon the merchants of that city. Through its operations the merchants have not only suffered loss through the increased taxation, but they have suffered most seriously through the transfer of a large part of their business to the neighboring provinces where the tariff was not so high. Some years ago the cities of Bahia and Pernambuco enjoyed a large trade with the neighboring small provinces which then possessed no facilities for importing directly from foreign countries. The local governments of these two provinces, however, have been steadily increasing the costs of importation until this profitable trade has been almost wholly diverted to other places. The port of Maceió now enjoys a large foreign trade, and many of the smaller places in other provinces are importing directly. Further than this we have seen complaints that the interior municipalities are actually smuggling goods in from neighboring provinces in order to avoid the excessive taxation imposed at the ports of Pernambuco and Bahia. A policy more short sighted than this it would be difficult to conceive, for it is steadily ruining the trade of those two important ports as well as oppressing the people beyond all measure.

The action of the government in promptly suspending the operations of the Pernambuco provincial tariff has been severely censured in conservative circles on the ground that the cabinet has exceeded its authority in so doing. It is claimed that the act of suspension was equivalent to nullifying a provincial law inasmuch as no mention was made in the dispatch of a reference to the legislature. As the right to annul a provincial law is vested solely in the legislature, it is therefore claimed that the minister has exceeded his authority. The government replies to this that the act of suspension implies a reference to the Chambers even though no specific mention is made of that purpose. The case was most urgent as the people of Pernambuco were in a state of great excitement and had petitioned for the immediate suspension of the law. The act of the Pernambuco government in enacting this law was clearly illegal, as the constitution expressly prohibits the imposition of taxes of this character by the provinces. The government, therefore,

had no alternative than that of ordering its immediate suspension. In this the government is clearly in the right. It could not well have referred the question to the legislature for decision, leaving the law to be executed in the meantime. The interminable delays attendant upon getting a measure through the General Assembly would completely defeat the present movement for relief. What the mercantile class of Pernambuco demands is instant relief from illegal and oppressive taxation, and that is just what the government undertook to grant them. There can really be no other decision by the General Assembly because the prohibition is explicit. Whether the two Chambers take little or much time in their consideration of the question, the decision can be no other than that already given by the ministry—that the tax is illegal. The action of the ministry therefore is just what it should have been, for it gave the immediate relief desired by the Pernambuco merchants and at the same time left the matter open for the future action of the legislature. In matters of this character prompt action is highly essential for the simple reason that the cases are always urgent. Petitions for relief are never made until men begin to feel oppression, and very often not until they have borne oppression for some time. When they go so far as to petition for redress it is generally because they can not submit to an unjust burden any longer. That the mercantile class of Pernambuco have just cause for complaint there can not be the slightest doubt; and that the ministry acted wisely and justly in granting their petition there should not be even the shadow of a question. Under the circumstances it seems best to act justly first, and then criticise methods afterwards.

The complaint of the people of Pernambuco against the act of the provincial legislature in imposing additional taxes upon imports should be made a general complaint throughout the whole empire. Pernambuco is not the only province in which taxes of this character are levied; in fact it would be very difficult to name one single province which has not exceeded its powers in this respect. Bahia has probably carried the imposition quite as far as Pernambuco, and with precisely the same results. The Bahia press claim that Pernambuco set the example in this kind of legislation, and then admit that Bahia has fully adopted the practice. Both provinces have suffered severely from its results, but not yet to a point sufficient to instruct and warn their heaven-born legislators, whose idea of government is to spend all the money possible and then make commerce foot the bills. Another one of the provinces in this category, which has carried this practice of supplementary taxation to an oppressive degree, is that of Minas Geraes. Although this province is wholly inland and therefore possesses none of the elaborate machinery devised for the extraction of customs revenue, it has nevertheless found the means to levy tariffs on almost everything which crosses its borders, either inward or outward. One example of this is its heavy tax on the gross product of the gold mines owned and worked by foreign companies, which at one time was as high as four per cent. Unjust as this tax certainly is, it is doubly unjust because of its discriminating character, it being levied solely upon the foreign companies. Decisions against its legality have been procured by the companies interested, but to what effect? The tax continued in force, and for ought we know is still collected. The case has been brought up again and again in the General Assembly, but who as yet seen an enactment of that body deciding the question either one way or the other? This Minas gold

tax is just as illegal and oppressive as the import taxes of Pernambuco, but yet no legislative relief is afforded. In the eyes of the average legislator, be he provincial or national, every tax is legal which will afford a revenue and which can be enforced. The province of Minas imposes most burdensome taxes even on the necessities of life, and there is no escape from them simply because there is no relief. It is idle to look to the legislature for this relief, for the legislature has in reality become the most tyrannical and oppressive branch of the government. In both provincial and national legislation the history of this country proves that the average legislator is both incompetent and tyrannical. Looking upon himself as an authority in political and economical matters, he confidently undertakes the solution of problems of which he has not the slightest knowledge or conception. Believing himself to be the representative of the people, whose interests and rights are deposited with him in trust, he tramples upon every personal right and overrides every legal restraint. In other countries as well as Brazil legislatures have committed excesses as unjust and arbitrary as were ever committed by a sovereign, and simply because men have overlooked the plain fact that legislators are just as much in need of checks and counterchecks as any other class of rulers. One of the most glaring faults in this country lies in this very lack of an effective check upon the legislature. Were there some independent power, like a high court, to which cases like these illegal laws could be referred for decision, it is clear that much oppressive legislation would be either avoided or annulled. As it is, the reference of a disputed point from one legislature to another of similar materials and character is very much like choosing one blind man to lead another.

#### ANNUAL REPORT.

To the Subscribers of the British Benevolent Society.

Gentlemen.—Your Committee beg to lay before you the following abstract from the treasurer's accounts for the year ended 30th June last:

Balance in hand, 1st July, 1881....	12,154 51 40
Amount of subscriptions for the year 1881-2.....	5,715 000
Donations during 1881-2, as follows:	
Viscountess Barbacena 405 000	
Dr. Gunning.....	500 000
Mrs. Lewis Jones.....	100 000
Rev. W. Gunion.....	55 000
Rev. H. L. Beardmore 25 000	
W. Hill (Manchester) 100 000	
Henry Gale.....	100 000
	920 000
Interest on deposit receipts.....	315 350
	19,104 490
Pensions paid, 1881-2....	6,955 000
Loans, temporary assistance, and passages.....	937 750
Less loans repaid 120 000	817 750
Funeral expenses.....	103 000
Advertisements and printing 64 700	
	7,940 450
Balance in hand, 1st July, 1882....	11,164 040
This balance is made up as follows:	
Bill: New London & Brazilian Bank due 15th September.....	9,031 440
Cash.....	2,132 600
	11,164 040

From the annexed list it will be observed that we have, at present, 30 pensioners, making up a total of 6,900 \$000 per annum.

The subscribers will see from these accounts that although the position of the Society still remains strong, the encroachments upon our Reserve Fund continues, our balance of funds in hand on 1st July of this year having been Rs. 11,164 \$040, as against Rs. 12,154 \$140 on the corresponding day of 1881, a reduction of Rs. 990 \$100; this, however, is an improvement upon the retrograde movement of the previous

year, as in 1880-1 the balance of funds was encroached upon to the extent of Rs. 1,754 \$780, the Reserve Fund on 1st July, 1880, having stood at Rs. 13,908 \$920.

Our receipts during 1881-2 show an increase of Rs. 1,175 \$760 over the previous twelve months, arising from several donations as shown in the cash statements, the sum of Rs. 85 \$000 subscribed amongst the clerks of a leading house here, and an increase of general subscriptions in response to our recent appeal by circular and in the newspapers.

Our expenses have increased by Rs. 411 \$080, which amount embraces, however, a loan of Rs. 200 \$000 that the committee feel confident will be returned, and expenses with funerals to the extent of Rs. 103 \$000.

These then are the leading features of our financial position, and though they are not so satisfactory as the committee could wish, we consider that there is no cause for discouragement. If our present subscriptions, which already show a slight improvement, can be somewhat increased, as by still further canvassing we believe they may be, there is reason to hope that the continuous encroachment upon our Reserve Fund may be, if not entirely checked, at least largely diminished; and it must be, we think, the determination of whatever committee may represent you during the current financial year to leave no stone unturned to attain that object.

Rio de Janeiro, 21st August, 1882.

H. L. BRACKMERE, Chairman.  
R. NORTON, Treasurer.  
J. OWEN UNWIN, Secretary.  
Wm. MORRISSEY.  
Committee  
F. L. SCHWIND, JR.  
R. S. QUAYLE.  
F. H. HARRISON.  
W. B. YEATS.

#### THE NEW YORK POST OFFICE

The statistics of the "mailing, and distribution division" of the New York Post Office for the fiscal year 1881-82 have been prepared, and the following items of the report will be found of interest:

The mail matter originating in New York addressed to other offices in the United States consisted of 71,302,692 letters, 18,019,820 postal cards, 63,872,016 circulars, 151,398,988 newspapers and magazines mailed by publishers to subscribers, 67,210,728 transient newspapers and 9,934,704 packages of merchandise, etc. The number of letters, &c., originating at other United States post offices, but passing through and handled by the New York office, was as follows: 32,812,468 domestic and 13,877,864 foreign letters, postal cards and circulars, with 32,432,400 packages of other matter addressed within the United States and 9,378,460 packages for foreign countries; 16,298,060 letters and 17,331,288 packages of other matter were mailed at New York during the year directed to foreign countries. The total number of letters and other articles mailed at and passing through the office (exclusive of those for city delivery) was 504,269,488.

The total number of sacks of domestic newspaper mail made up was 1,149,802—a daily average of 3,142; pouches of domestic letters and circulars, 192,478—a daily average of 514. Sacks of newspapers made up for foreign mails 28,808; sacks of foreign letters, 21,134. Total number of sacks domestic and foreign mail matter, 1,389,225—a daily average of 4,540. Two hundred and sixty-five thousand two hundred and forty-three papers and packages imperfectly directed were forwarded after correction of their addresses.

The average weight of mail matter received and sent daily by the Post Office was 140 tons, of which 40 were received and 95 dispatched. The heaviest weight on any one day was 125 tons dispatched and 60 tons received, and the lowest weight on any one day 82 tons dispatched and 37 tons received.

It is understood that the New York board of fire underwriters have no record of any accident to life and property caused by the use of electric lights where the equipment was in full compliance with the requirements of the board. This standard has been in operation now six months, and the fact that there has been no fire and no accident shows that electric lighting is well nigh absolutely safe.

IMPORTANT reductions in the Cuban tariffs on imports have been made by the Spanish government, the new rates going into operation on the 1st ult. The discriminations against foreign vessels have been abolished.

## PROVINCIAL NOTES

—The July receipts of the Bahia custom house amounted to 710,632\$54.

—Small-pox has made its appearance in Canjinas, province of São Paulo.

—The July receipts of the Macaé, Alagoas, custom house amounted to 51,801\$69.

—The July receipts of the Pará *recheado* amounted to 156,465\$822, and from the *recheado* 11,207\$966.

—The cost of a great reservoir at Lavras, Ceará, to meet the exigencies of future *secca*, is estimated at 8,972,000\$.

—The municipal council of Piracicaba, São Paulo, has resolved to make a reduction of 50 per cent. in the municipal impost on coffee.

—The merchants of Bahia, encouraged by the example of those of Pernambuco, are reclaiming against the provincial additional tariff on imports.

—Under the first and second quotas of the emancipation fund the province of Minas Geraes has liberated 1597 slaves, at a total expense of 1,517,504\$049.

—Proposals for the projected water and drainage works of Niteroi were opened in that city on the 22nd inst. There were 11 proposals for the former, and 10 for the latter.

—For the crime of murder a slave of Sr. Antonio José de Arruda Villas-Boas, of Mogimirim, São Paulo, was recently sentenced to receive one hundred lashes and wear an iron collar for one year.

—The government has expended upon the Blumenau colony since the outset the enormous sum of 14,000,000\$. Almost enough to convince a woolen man of the futility of the old colonization methods.

—A cotton factory is now being built on the Rio Cassá, one league from Uberaba, Minas Geraes, under the supervision of an American engineer. It is expected that the factory will be completed in about three or four months.

—An assassination occurred at a little place called Farias, near Amparo, São Paulo, during the night of the 7th inst., a man named João Antonio de Noronha being killed by his *camarada*. The crime was accomplished with a club.

—Two more assassinations have occurred near Carandubá on the Dom Pedro II railway extension, a contractor, named Hermann, and a companion being killed by unknown parties. Carandubá is fast acquiring an unenviable reputation.

—The July receipts of sugar and cotton at Pernambuco were as follows:

	1882	1881
Sugar.....	2,703 bags	12,071 bags
Cotton.....	7,798 sacks	5,909 sacks

—The July receipts of the Pará custom house amounted to 774,397\$890, against 728,159\$947 in the same month of 1881, 465,068\$184 in 1880, and 542,880\$303 in 1879. The revenue from imports in July last amounted to 560,745\$256, and from exports 172,877\$138.

—The July receipts of rubber at Pará amounted to 500,000 kilos, against 460,000 kilos, in the same month of last year. The receipts of cacao were 1,400,000 kilos, against 360,000 kilos, in July of last year. The stocks at the end of the month were 135,000 kilos of rubber, and 677,000 kilos of cacao.

—The official value of products exported from Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, during the month of July, amounted to 563,656\$220, of which 53,522\$5 was composed of foreign products. Among the domestic products 14,443 bags of beans, 7,018 bags of farinha, 71,995 kilos of lard were shipped to Rio de Janeiro.

—The receipts of the postoffice of Minas Geraes, including both the central administration and the agencies, for the fiscal year 1881-82, amounted to 157,021\$990. The expenditures which are not yet all liquidated, are estimated at 265,258\$000. The province has 421 agencies and 157 post routes. The expenditure for carrying the mails was 152,216\$000.

—We learn from the *Monitor Campista* that the president of Minas Geraes, Dr. Theophilo Ottoni, has solicited from the city council of Campos a copy of the contract for illuminating that city with the electric light, with the view of introducing it into Ouro Preto. The *Monitor* is informed, also, that a similar request has been received from the president of Rio Grande do Sul, with the purpose of introducing it into Porto Alegre.

—A meeting of merchants was held at Pernambuco on the 14th inst. to protest against the provincial tax on imports, over and above the general tax. The additional tax was from 10 to 30 per cent. A petition to the provincial president for the suspension of the tax was adopted unanimously and was presented by a deputation of over a thousand people. Protests were also adopted for transmission to the Emperor and the prime minister.

—The July receipts of the Ceará custom house amounted to 227,331\$111.

—The July receipts of the Maranhão custom house amounted to 216,360\$403.

—An epidemic of small pox is reported from Juazeiro, province of Bahia.

—Every commercial house in Pernambuco is taxed 3\$ per annum for the support of a company of firemen.

—A tax of 2 per cent. on the transfer of shares of any company or enterprise, is levied by the province of Pernambuco.

—The president of Bahia has extended the provisions of last year's budget to cover the receipts and expenditures of the current year.

—An epidemic of small-pox is raging with great intensity at Natal, province of Rio Grande do Norte.

—The province of Maranhão is longing for some public improvements, and wants the national government to fast the bills.

—In the municipality of Valença, province of Piauí, ten slaves have recently been emancipated at a cost of 3,550\$, of which amount the slaves contributed 235\$ from their savings. This gives an average price of 355\$ each.

—According to the Pernambuco provincial budget the receipts for the current fiscal year are estimated at 3,470,924\$000, and the expenditures authorized are 3,324,483\$753. The suspension of the additional tax on imports will probably make a considerable reduction in the receipts.

—Twenty-four slaves were recently liberated in the municipality of Santa Maria Magalhães, province of Rio de Janeiro, under the third distribution of the emancipation fund. The amount paid for their freedom was 31,100\$, to which the slaves contributed 7,253\$100 from their own savings. This gives an average price of nearly 1,300\$ each.

—The message of the president of Minas Geraes, presented at the opening of the provincial assembly on the 1st., says that in a period of eight months there were committed in that province 39 homicides, 18 attempts to kill, 49 assaults and 4 robberies. In seven months 208 arrests had been made of which 94 were for homicides, 38 for attempts to kill, 43 for assaults and 6 for robbery.

—The public indebtedness of the province of Pernambuco on the 31st of December last amounted to 4,046,254\$211, of which 3,972,000\$ was funded. The debt was decreased about 2 1/2 per cent during the past year. The rate of interest paid on the funded debt is 7 per cent. This total does not include the money owing to the general government for interest guarantee paid to the "Reifeio do S. Francisco" railway, which amounted to 2,650,280\$659 on the 30th of June, 1881.

—A Maranhão correspondent of the *Jornal do Commercio* writes concerning the new lighthouse on the island of Sant'Anna, at the entrance to the port of Maranhão, that it will be practically useless because of its badly chosen site. The government has already expended about 40,000\$ on the structure, but it is not yet completed. It is stated by an experienced pilot that although the light will be visible at a distance of 20 to 24 miles it will be invisible at distances from 3 to 10 miles because of the wood and islands in its immediate vicinity. The pilot thinks that like the Gaivotas light it will have to be pulled down and rebuilt on a more favorable site.

—The president of São Paulo has opened a credit of 100,000\$ to be employed in the acquirement of immigrants. The law authorizing this expenditure specifies that 30,000\$ may be used in the purchase of grounds and the construction of a building for the reception of immigrants at São Paulo, and the further sum of 120,000\$ may be employed in assisting them to pay their fares and in supplying them with food and shelter on arrival. The *Correio Paulistano* is informed, however, that the president intends to employ a part of the credit just opened in the establishment of a colony on the *Campo de Conceição*.

—The subsidy clause in the Pernambuco provincial budget which appropriates 20,000\$ for an opera company, is a curious and interesting document. It specifies that the representations shall begin in April next; that not less than 36 representations shall be given, exclusive of the benefits, but not more than two subscription representations per week shall be permitted; that the prices shall correspond to those agreed upon last year, with an abatement of 10 per cent. to subscribers; that the orchestra shall be composed of a director and 30 musicians, the preference to be given to Brazilians; that the contractor shall be obliged to consult Carlos Gomes in his choice of artists, which consultation must be attested by the composer's signature; that two operas never before rendered in Pernambuco must be given, one of which must be by Carlos Gomes; that no opera must be given without the consent of the directors of the theatre; and that two gratuitous representations must be given for the benefit of charitable establishments under the administration of the Santa Casa da Misericórdia.

—In addition to the national tax the transfer or exchange of property by sale, purchase, or exchange, in the province of Pernambuco is further taxed 1 per cent. on its value.

—The province of Pernambuco levies a tax of 20\$ on every slave who exercises the occupation of butcher, steeple, or of a mechanic of any description in the capital, and 10\$ if in an interior city.

## RAILROAD NOTES

—The July receipts of the Barão de Arriana line amounted to 11,945\$840.

—The government has appointed Dr. Eduardo José de Moraes as director of the Paulo Afonso railway.

—The formal inauguration of the last section of the Mogiana railway extension to S. Simão took place on the 16th inst.

—The July receipts of the "Oeste de Minas" railway amounted to a total of 21,891\$220, and the expenditures to 13,796\$150.

—The Paulista company, of São Paulo, has decided to pay a dividend of 10\$980 per share for the half year ending June 30 last.

—The July receipts of the Baturité railway, of Ceará, amounted to 21,910\$570, and the expenditures to 14,000\$, leaving a balance of 7,910\$570.

—The June receipts of the "Bahia do São Francisco" railway amounted to 30,033\$949, and the expenditures to 40,820\$220, leaving a deficit of 10,786\$280.

—Construction works on the Sumilouro railway, running from Porto Novo to Paqueta, began on the 17th inst. The line will have an extension of 36 kilometers.

—Dr. Francisco Bento Alexandre de Figueiredo Magalhães has made a proposal to the government for the construction of a tramway from the Botanical Garden line to the Copacabana beach.

—The Paulista railway directors received fifteen proposals for the Itatiaia branch to that line. The proposals were opened on the 16th inst., but the decision has not yet been announced.

—The Brazilian Imperial Central Bahia Railway Company have declared an *interim* dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum for the six months ending June 30 last, payable on August 3.

—The president of São Paulo has approved the provisional tariff adopted by the Mogiana company for the extension of its line from Casa Branca to S. Simão, but with reductions in the rates adopted for coffee, salt and passenger fares.

—The July receipts of the São Paulo railway, just published, amounted to 496,662\$250, and the expenditures to 171,894\$950, leaving a surplus of 325,067\$300. The number of passengers carried during the month was 11,336.

—The ninth session of the railway congress occurred on the evening of the 22nd inst. It is fast becoming apparent that the congress has lost its opportunity of doing any practical work. A good undertaking has been literally talked to death.

—With the completion of the S. Simão extension the Mogiana railway of São Paulo has a total extension of 30 kilometers, including the Peña and Amparo branches. The total capital invested in road bed, rolling stock, bridges, stations, etc., amounts to 6,000,000\$, as follows:

	kilometers	capital
Campinas to Casa Branca	173	
and Amparo branch 30.....	30	5,100,000\$
Casa Branca to S. Simão.....	87	1,400,000
Peña branch.....	21	300,000
Average investment per kilometer	21,933\$480.	

—According to *Poor's Manual* of the present year the total extension of railways constructed in the United States during the year 1881 was 9,358 miles, the largest total for any one year thus far. The next largest total for a single year was that of 1871 when 7,379 miles were constructed. The total railway extension in the United States at the end of 1881 was 104,813 miles, which was increased by 3,600 miles during the first five months of the current year. The gross earnings of all the roads in operation during the year amounted to \$725,325,119, and the net earnings to \$276,654,119. The total dividends paid during the year amounted to \$93,344,200.

—The receipts of the Dom Pedro II, railway during the half year ending June 30 amounted to 4,915,021\$524, as follows:

Passengers.....	1,072,925\$810
Baggage.....	41,573 410
Encumbrances.....	121,737 380
Animals.....	49,051 020
Waggons.....	3,878 620
Merchandise.....	3,548,049 610
Telegraph.....	28,733 480
Warehouse.....	12,401 640
Fines.....	4,489 404
Diverse sources.....	33,391 650
	4,915,021\$524
Receipts for other lines..	736,930 070
Passenger tax.....	78,119 600

—A new iron railway bridge at Corimbató, on the "Natal a Nova Cruz" line, Rio Grande do Norte, was formally inaugurated on the 17th ult.

—The S. Antonio de Padua company have reduced their freight on coffee, the new rate being 2\$160 per bag from the Coqueiro station, near S. Fidelis, to Rio de Janeiro. The rate from Tres Ilhéus is 2\$620 and from S. Antonio de Padua 3\$160 per bag.

—We see by an official report of the Argentine government that the Andine railway is having a little trouble with its locomotives. These machines were purchased at the S. Leonardo factory, in Belgium, five of which have already been received. The first two trials failed to give satisfaction, and the government at once suspended the contract until the matter could be put right. We are privately informed that it took some four or five hours to run a distance of twenty kilometers with these locomotives.

## RIVER PLATE ITEMS.

From the Buenos Aires Herald, August 15.

—By the *Equateur* was despatched the largest mail ever sent by one vessel from Buenos Aires. There were 12,500 letters and 5,300 packages of printed matter.

—The mole and wharfage dues at the Riachuelo have not reached their calculated amount, but they have amounted in the year past to 28,551,267. In 1880 there entered 1460 vessels more than in 1879 and in 1881 this increase has risen to 9844 over the previous year.

—The deficit of the Continental Exhibition amounts to \$1,509,622. Notwithstanding the president of the national inspecting committee declares that this deficit would disappear if the national government would give the amounts recovered for import duties in the exhibits to the liquidation of this debt.

—The legislative chambers of Cordoba have approved of a project authorizing the executive to contract a loan, either in or outside of the province for the sum of \$300,000 in order to balance its account with the Provincial Bank, and help the branch Hypothecary Bank about to be established.

—The gale on the river on the night of the 12th and all day on the 13th was very heavy, the sea washing over the Alameda wall and nearly on a level with the Catalina mole. The fleet was completely covered with water, but luckily it did not enter the houses. In port there were some casualties.

—Some time since we notified our readers that the minister of finance had asked the concurrence of the Chamber of Commerce in the revision of the customs' tariff for the year 1883. We now observe that the president of the syndical chamber has replied that he will meet the wishes of the minister and proposes that three delegates of that centre should meet at a meeting of the fiscal representatives. The minister has replied that all he wants is some suggestion on the matter and not the "concurrence" of the representatives of commerce, but thanks them for their offer.

—The Liberal Club has presented a petition to Congress setting forth the necessity of legislation for the celebration of marriages among non-catholics. The whole proceeding of the laws in cases of this kind is at variance with the genius of republicanism which supposes all men to enjoy equal rights and privileges without any reference to their religious opinions, which are simply matters between them and their maker. If this action of the liberal club appears to encroach upon the prerogatives of any existing institution it will not be very difficult to find ample justification for it.

From The Standard, August 15.

—Many people went to the Boca on Sunday to see the inundation. The residents were going about, paddling their own "canoes," and did not look much put out. A canoe is quite as indispensable an article of furniture in Boca houses as a bed to lie on.

—The *estancieros* of Santa Fe say that there will be no locusts this year, owing to the frost having killed their germs. One of the wealthiest *estancieros* in Buenos Aires told us yesterday that his Santa Fe colleagues' theory is the most undiluted rubbish.

—A meeting of the shareholders of the late lamented Continental Exhibition took place yesterday afternoon. The accounts show a deficit of \$44,000, and the meeting decided a petition for the amount should be drawn up and presented in the national government. The government may attend to the demand of the shareholders.

—The stiff gale on Sunday did some harm in port. An English ship, the *Veronica*, dragged her anchors and went slap-bang into the Spanish barque *Antonia* and down went the latter as fast and as far as her distinguished countryman the "Holy-Joe" at the battle of Trafalgar. The British ship *Rattlesnake* snapped her anchor chain and ran aground, and she will have to discharge her cargo before she can get off. The storm was the most severe we have had this winter.



—Advices from Mercedes state that the works of the Transandine railway are being actively pushed ahead. These materials are daily expected from Europe.

—Yesterday, after years of *tramites*, debates, decrees, etc., the Riachuelo with all its works, dredges and improvements was handed over to the national government. Although the transfer of these works could have been made by the mere stroke of a pen, still there was always a hitch, always a delay. At one time, this question of the Riachuelo works assumed the importance of the Suez Canal. The port of the Boca was clearly national property, but the costly improvements were as clearly provincial. It was the case of the Irish tenant improving his lands without a lease. The provincial government had spent millions, had even raised a gold boat which was placed in London; the dredging was carried on with an industry and an activity that clearly showed the importance the provincial government attached to the old ditch. Yet, spite of all the government activity, the title of the place grew faster still. The finest sight in Buenos Aires, after the war, was to stand on the roof of the commercial rooms and watch the long string of foreign vessels entering the Boca. There was a life and vitality about the scene, so different from everything of the old dignified enter road business. The Riachuelo is destined to become the Clyde of the River Plate, and when we get docks such as proposed by the Woodgate scheme, we may hope to see the Boca the real emporium of our foreign trade. The national government pays to the provincial government in bonds fifty millions (currency, which is money well spent by the national government, not so by the provincial government) that has the direct programme of spending the whole of the money in building houses in the new capital.

#### CINCCHONA IN CUYLOV.

We lately gave several instances of the welcome aid obtained by machetier coffee planters from the harvesting of cinchona bark; but we think no case (then mentioned) was, on the whole, so satisfactory as the one now brought to our notice. The owner of 11,000 succubra trees, four, five and six years old—growing among coffee about 4,000 feet above sea level, began "shaving" in March and has since continued the operation at intervals. His first return was 2,000 lbs. dry bark, or rather shavings, which have sold for £250 in London; he has since got in about 7,000 lbs., for which he is offered as much as ten shillings and pence locally, which, he thinks, will sell even better if shipped. Altogether his 11,000 trees, without cutting or injuring one of them, will, with twig and branch bark, as well as shavings, bring him in fully £14,000 this year, with the good prospect of a still better harvest next season (provided, of course, the French savant's "absolute for quinine" does not come to the front); and all this, he is remembered, from shavings of the comparatively despised red bark.—*Ceylon Observer*, June 16.

#### ELECTRICAL PROGRESS.

An American exchange says: It is said that there are already 30 electric light companies in England with a capital of over \$30,000,000. The number in France is less but the capital represented is nearly as great. There are over 50 companies in America and the capital is considerably over \$50,000,000. The rapid growth of this new application of a latent power is something marvellous. It is also expected that out of such a rush into new schemes there would be some bogus affairs and some disaster. This is the case in all new enterprises which have such sudden rise, and it is well to consider what the outcome is to be.

A few of the leading organizations and their branches have a legitimate basis of patents and inventions and business, and from the real outcome of what the new power is to do will be looked for. There is a certainty in both light and power, and in the special directions in which the leading spirits are engaged there are already fixed results and the industrial world is reaping the benefits.

Electricity has by no means touched its final development. It is as yet in its very infancy. There is no doubt but it furnishes the coming field of enterprise, and the coming light and economical power for all places where a lumbering steam engine is not desirable.

Lighting for mines, manufactories, shops, mills, public buildings, for night work and dwelling houses, is only one of its great works, the other equally important sphere of transportation and power is doubtless yet to surprise the world in its wonderful application. All these have already passed the experimental stage.

Ten years ago the India tea crop amounted to only 17,600,000 pounds. This year the crop is accurately estimated at 51,619,000 pounds. Of this amount only about 1,500,000 pounds are consumed in India, leaving about 50,000,000 pounds for export. This tea is very popular in England, but less than 3,000,000 pounds go to the United States. Assam tea is regarded as superior to all others.

## LOCAL NOTES

—Small-pox continues unaltered in the neighborhood of Niterohy. No measures, other than to advise vaccination, have been adopted.

—It is to be noted that there is now not an American merchant vessel in this port. The only vessel carrying the American flag in harbor is the flagship *Brooklyn*.

—The monitor *Schmida* is said to be now equipped with the electric light. The new improvement will be of incalculable service when the monitor goes to sea again, and gets lost.

—A veritable sea serpent is said to have been seen by the captain and crew of the steamer *Islande* which arrived at Pernambuco a few days since. The serpent was seen not far from that port.

—The opening of our new season of opera reviews has been every thing that could be desired—even to the brandy. Ferrari seems to have taken warning from Heller's sad fate, and his good liquor has made everything smooth and pleasant, even to the extraordinary prices.

—The *Fluminense* of Niterohy of the 6th inst., says that small-pox is raging with such intensity in the parish of Condeiros that many people are leaving the place. At the S. João Baptista hospital there were 19 small-pox cases on that date, some of which were actually placed in the wards beside other patients.

—A correspondent of the *Journal de Commercio* complains of the municipal tax on cattle slaughtered at Santa Cruz, and says that it is unequal. He says the tax is 4500 on every animal, whether it weighs 100, 200, or 400 kilos. This makes a tax of 10 reis per kilo, on an animal of 400 kilos weight, and of 40 reis per kilo on one weighing only 100 kilos.

—The Sunday-school chapel of the Methodist Episcopal church, now building at the Largo do Catete, was formally opened on the 29th inst. The construction of this new edifice as well as the organization of the society by which it will be occupied, is due to the efforts of Rev. J. J. Ransom who has been for some years engaged in missionary work in Brazil. The new society, however, will be under the immediate charge of Rev. J. L. Kennedy, who will conduct religious services hereafter at the new chapel both in English and Portuguese.

—Within the past few days, the police have apprehended two individuals said to be engaged in the circulation of counterfeit money. The counterfeited notes, so far as known, are of the denominations of 1000, 500, 200, 100, and 50, and are lithographed so well as to be detected with difficulty by people not experts. The notes, excepting those of 1000, were not yet finished, one side only being lithographed. They are of the design of the American Bank Note Company, and are said to have come from the United States, a presumption not credible because of their not yet being finished. Had the notes been made out of the country, it is to be presumed that both sides would have been printed there. The two individuals captured confess to having received proposals from two persons, a planter and an official, for the purchase of 1000,000 of these notes at a price of 10,000\$.

—We regret to note that the musical editor of *Hot Bitters* has made the important discovery, as announced in his last review, that the buff of the Theatre Saint Anna is supplied with very bad branly. The public has two definite interests in this matter: the direct one of being injured by the liquor itself, and the indirect one of reading a review written by a critic laboring under its malignant effects. It is an atrocity which no refined community can stand—we mean the bad branly. Then, too, in the interests of his enterprise the manager should never have permitted the sale of inferior drinks, especially to critics. If it is impossible to always guard against this, then he should have his own little buffet, and should secure the criticism before the bottle is passed. No sensitive man can be expected to appreciate music—not even *Cagliostro*—with an excited bonnet's nest in his head.

—In response to a second petition of Joseph Hancock for the rescission of the contract with the City Improvements Company, the minister of agriculture declines to entertain the proposition on the ground that the contract provides for its extension in case the works are not completed in the specified time; that the contractors are obliged to complete the works; that the government is not to blame for the prejudices suffered by the contractors, nor for the delays in payment of unpaid and contested accounts. For the benefit of all concerned—and both Mr. Hancock and Mr. Galbriell have learned the lesson long ere this—the standing reply of the government to all questions of this character is that the government is responsible for nothing while the contractor is responsible for everything. In contracts with the government there is only one party—the government. The contractor has no recognized status, no rights, and, at the end, no profits.

—The Ferrari opera company, comprising 224 persons, arrived in this city from the River Plate on the 14th inst. The season was opened on the 18th inst. with Rossini's *Semiramide*.

—The French frigate *Palais*, O'Neil commander, and carrying the commanding officer of the South Atlantic squadron, Rear-Admiral Barné de Givél, arrived in this port on the evening of the 16th inst.

—The receipts of the savings bank of this city during the first half of August amounted to 205,086\$, and the withdrawals to 147,894\$492. The balance remaining on deposit at the close of the 15th inst. was 11,224,767\$071.

—According to an exchange the English courts have decided that the officers of the Royal Mail steamer *Douro* were solely to blame for the collision between that vessel and the Spanish steamer *Jurachai*, which occurred some time since with such fatal results.

—The *Fluminense* says that the crowded condition of the S. João Baptista hospital in Niterohy is due to the failure of the minister of empire to furnish a hospital launch to carry the small-pox patients to the Jurachai hospital. The result is that small-pox patients are now mixed up with the others.

—According to a statement of Senator José Bonifácio in the Senate on the 14th inst., the number of voters disfranchised by the new electoral reform law, throughout the whole empire, amounted to 956,657 in the last election. The chief difficulty is the nature of the proofs of eligibility.

—The British squadron entered port on the 14th inst. from Montevideo via Santos. It consists of the corvette *Anchylus*, Commodore N. Bowden Smith, and the gunboats *Dwarf*, Capt. Sir William Wiseman, *Firgley*, Capt. Edward G. F. Law, and *Rifflon*, Capt. Philip H. W. Mayow. The squadron is expected to remain in port for some time.

—The residents of Rua Princesa Imperial, above the Candelaria quarry, have been endangered for some time past by the blasting of rock immediately below their residences. Quarrying in that locality has been forbidden a long time ago, but yet the prohibition is disregarded. A roof was broken in a few months ago by flying pieces of rock, and some day a more serious accident will surely occur.

—We trust that our readers will not forget that the Sailors' Mission of this city is one of those charities which know no vacation, and whose demands are constant. The sailors' reading-room at 163 Rua da Sante is open every day from 11 a. m. to 4 p. m. and has been the means of doing incalculable good. To keep up its efficiency and to make it more attractive, it should receive all the books, magazines and papers which its friends can spare.

—If there is any one special and important reason why a war should occur between Brazil and the Argentine Republic, it is to be found in the necessity of enabling our peaceful colleague, the Buenos Aires Standard, to learn a few of the familiar names used in military matters. "Neufchatel" mitrailleuses and "Collett" muskets are certainly inimitable in their way, but they show a better knowledge of geography than of military affairs.

—The death of Camillo Maria Ferreira Armonde, Conde de Prados, took place in this city on the evening of the 14th inst., after a long and painful illness. The deceased was born in Barbacena, Minas Geraes, in 1815, and entered the medical profession at an early age, taking his degree at Paris. He was mixed up in the revolution of 1842, for which he was imprisoned for over a year at Ouro Preto, but was finally discharged by a jury in 1843. Since that time he represented his province in the General Assembly during many years, filling the chair of president of the Chamber for two terms.

—At the session of the municipal council of the 17th inst. a project was adopted for the opening of a national subscription for the erection of a statue to the Barão de Amazonas in this city. The promptness displayed in these matters is something remarkable. If the employment of the money were as promptly executed as is its solicitation, there would probably be little cause for dissatisfaction, even notwithstanding the frequency of the demands. Until something is definitely known about the Casais and Osorio subscriptions there will be a little hesitation in putting more money into the hands of self-constituted subscription commissions.

#### THE BRAZILIAN QUESTION

The Misiones question is each day becoming more important, and, although it is impossible to suppose that two such nations as Brazil and the Argentine Republic would go to war about a scrap of territory in the Misiones, still, from the tenor of the debates in the Brazilian Chambers, it would seem that much national jealousy has been aroused; and, if the truth were told, the Bahia Oriental and its future has far more to do with the issue than the ruined towns of Misiones, the Saharás and Thebeses of South America.

Brazilian and Argentine politicians should ever bear in mind that it seems ordained some question

or other must always exist between the two countries. For the last quarter of a century we have had periodical outbursts of national feeling.

The Brazilians, although never missing an occasion to show us their friendly feeling, persistently frighten us with their parliamentary debates and dreary nonsense of armistice peace.

Of course there is the same liberty of speech in Brazil that there is here, and we should all regret to see it in the least restricted; but whoever reads through the Brazilian parliamentary debates must agree with us that the Brazilian legislators ought to be more circumspect when discussing subjects of an international character.

Baron Cotegipe is, no doubt, an illustrious statesman, but his nerves seem to be unstrung whenever he deals with River Plate questions, and his views about an armed peace are only worthy of the humblest duffer to be found in the whole Brazilian empire.

Far better for both countries, if they have any real matter in dispute, to set to and fight it out at once than to debilitate both nations by an armed peace such as is forced on the unfortunate European powers.

According to yesterday's advices from Rio, they have shipped from Europe to Brazil 108 Krupp guns and Newchatel (?) mitrailleuses; and they are making for Brazil in the European arsenals 36,000 Collett (?) muskets. What melancholy news this is for both countries! All the land in dispute in the Misiones, selling at to-day's market price, would not cover the cost of this armed-peace consignment.

With much felicity our able colleague the *Variety* reminds Baron Cotegipe that in all the various questions affecting national honor that have arisen in Brazil within the last twenty years, she has obtained the fullest reparation and satisfaction, not by appeals to arms, but to the great moral influences that guide European diplomacy. We fear we must admit that we miss a Rio Branco at the present moment in the Brazilian councils.

In every question that Brazil can have with this Republic, there will always be a moral side, to which both nations can safely appeal. Argentines are not wild Indians, nor Brazilians Zulus; both nations are as advanced as any on this continent, and sound reason and common sense hold as great empire over both peoples as in any other country on the face of the globe. If, unfortunately, it should come to pass that moral force should lose its weight in either country, the fault and its terrible consequences will lie, not with the people but with the shufflers who call themselves statesmen and prostitute their limited abilities by arousing passions that national prosperity and national growth have long since quelled.—*Buenos Aires Standard*, August 15.

#### THE PERNAMBUCO PROVINCIAL BUDGET.

The following is a condensed summary of the taxation clauses of the Pernambuco provincial budget for the current year, which have created as much opposition from the importing merchants of that city. The consumption taxes, which are in great measure duplicate or additional taxes on foreign products, are to be found in Article 17 of the budget, and are as follows.

- Section 1. All national products and manufactures introduced into the province for consumption: 3 per cent. Excepting castor oil and tobacco which will pay 4 per cent.; and jerked beef, crude salt, maize, beans, farinha de mandioca, and cattle on foot, which are exempt from provincial tax.
2. All foreign merchandise, products and manufactures, introduced for consumption, excepting printing presses, type, ink and printing paper, and excepting also sole and dressed leather for domestic shops: 10 per cent. additional on the general tariff levied by the custom house.
3. All boots and shoes, ready made clothes, collars, cuffs, shirt fronts, drawers, hats, vinegar, lime, saddlery, cabinet-ware, fine wines, beer and other alcoholic drinks, jewels, manufactures of gold, silver, or imitations, fire-arms, powder, kerosene, wheat flour, playing-cards, perfumery: 30 per cent. additional on the duties collected by the custom house, except common wines which will pay 20 per cent.
4. White cotton goods similar to that made in the province, 50 reis per meter; crude cotton, 80 reis per sack; cotton waste, 20 reis per sack.
5. For aguariente or alcohol, whether pure or in liqueur, to be sold at retail in any part of the province, 120 reis per liter.
6. On each head of cattle killed in the several municipalities of the province, 35\$00 per head, reversing the existing exceptions.
- ART. 18. Taxes on exports:
  - Section 1. All national produce which shall be exported, 3 per cent.; excepting sugar, which will pay 2 per cent., cotton, 1 per cent., aguariente, honey and alcohol, 8 per cent., and hides 20 per cent., on the legal weight and official weekly valuation of the custom house.
  2. All slaves exported, 50\$; when the transaction is done by power of attorney, 200\$.

An apparatus has been invented the introduction of which, it is claimed, "will prevent any further appalling disasters caused by the collision of vessels in rivers, channels and at sea. John McAdams, of Boston, has perfected an arrangement which he asserts will bring any vessel, however large and fast-steaming, to a dead stop in from one to ten feet, and will hold her steady as a rock, with full steam on." This invention he terms "ship brake," and attached to this novel contrivance is a self-acting appliance which, during dark nights, thick or foggy weather, will render impossible, in his opinion, any collision with floating bodies, such as boats, ships, ice-bergs, or with submerged bodies in the shape of mud-banks, shoals, rocks or piers.

*CALIFORNIA*

CEYLON PLANTATION NEWS.

The utmost activity prevails throughout our planting districts, notwithstanding the woefully short coffee crop on the trees. The planting season is now fully on, and advantage is being taken of it to add to the area under cinchona, tea

The proprietor of Yoxford is surely justified in attributing his success to the careful experiments he has carried out to discover the fertilizing substances best suited to his plantation. Mr. Bosanquet was, in England, a pupil of Mr. Lawes, and his action has been often the wellknown example of Messrs. Lawes and Gilbert and also of M. Ville. He has, for instance, experimentally proved beyond all dispute, as we consider, that nitrogenous manure (and since this characterizes three-fourths of the manures applied to plantations hitherto, most estates) is worse than thrown away on the higher portion of Yoxford. Instead of blossoms and berries, an excess of wood is the result, and Mr. Bosanquet has quite settled that exsicc cake or other nitrogenous manure is not required, at least for the upper portion of his property. A few experiments probably not costing more than £50 ought to determine after a more satisfactory manner than the best analysis of soil, what the planter should apply to his different fields. But so far, systematic, attempts, after the fashion adopted on Yoxford, have been few and far between. To this complexion however, it must come, and the sooner systematic scientific cultivation is carried out on all plantations fairly suitable for coffee, the better. Meantime, in this year of doubt and depression—when coffee is spoken of by one and another as doomed—we are justified in asking how the good crop on Yoxford or on Valmorais is to be accounted for. The latter is usually referred to as an exceptionally fine piece of land; but it cannot be said the Yoxford is specially favoured beyond other places along the side of Great Western, from Medacumbra up to Galkandewatte. Let critical visiting agents explain the difference before they begin to cry down the coffee enterprise.

In Liberian coffee, cocoa, cardamoms and Indian rubber, the prospects are good and the extension of cultivation is steadily going on.

FROM Colombian items we glean that the new American cable was opened on July 1st. Heretofore cable rates from South America via England to New York have been \$8. per word, but the monopoly is now broken.

· SPEAKING of the proverbial unhealthfulness of the city of Panama, the New Orleans *Times-Picayune* says: "However, Panama is not such a terrible place after all. It is a much healthier city than Havana or Vera Cruz, while it is probably certain that were the authorities of the city energetic enough to have it and its vicinity properly policed, Panama would be moderately healthy, and would not be such a bad place to die in after all."

The following is the declared value of the foreign trade of France in the first five months of the year and of 1881: Imports 1882, 2,007,990,000 (£80,316,000); 1881, 1,955,521,000 (£78,220,960); exports, 1882, 1,451,637,000 (£58,065,480); 1881, 1,312,020,000 (£52,490,800). The general returns exhibited in the above totals are scarcely so favorable as in the preceding return. The imports in May amounted to 390,000,000, or 2,000,000 more than in April, while the exports fell from 348, in April to 296,000,000 in May. It is true that the returns in May, 1881, were less favorable than for this year, as the imports then amounted in 415,000,000 and the exports in only 289,000,000. There has, consequently, been an improvement on the year. The balance of exports of manufactures over imports fell from 553,000,000 to 96,000,000, but the difference may have been caused by the period of disturbance through which foreign trade has been passing from the renewal of the treaty of commerce.

		<i>August 23d, 1885:</i>	
Par value of the Brazilian mil reis is (\$1000, gold)	do	do	27 d.
do	do	coin at \$1.84 per U. S. gold	\$4.45 cts.
do	\$1.00 (U. S. coin) in Brazilian gold		\$18.57
do	of £1. stg. in Brazilian gold		8.889
Bank rate of exchange on London to-day.....			
Present value of the Brazilian mil reis (paper)		do	280 rs gold
do	do	do	in U. S.
do	coin at \$4.80 per U. S. stg.		42.57 cts
Value of \$1.00 (\$4.80 per U. S. currency) in Brazilian			2 1/2
Value of £1 sterling			11 1/2

August 14. --The market opened to-day in the same condition in which it closed on the 12th instant, the banks drawing at 21/16 and private paper being easily negotiated at 21/2. Only a limited amount of business was transacted as usual on the eve of the departure of the French mail. Some bank paper on France drawn at 44/5. Sovereigns sold at 11/2 3/8 cash.

August 15. --There was no change in the market and some transactions were effected at 21/16 bank and 21/2 private bills. Sovereigns sold at 11/2 3/8 cash.

August 17. --About 1 p.m. on today the banks withdrew their rate at 21/16, and some business was then done at 21/3, the banks refusing finally to draw at above 21/3. Private paper was passed at 21/2. The only apparent cause of the decline was the great scarcity of private bills. Sovereigns closed at 11/2 3/8 soles buyers.

August 18. --The English Bank of Kin adopted to-day the rate of 21/4 and the other banks remained without rates but were willing to draw at 21/4. There were, however, hardly any takers at this rate. Private paper was negotiated at 21/3 and 21/16. Sovereigns sold at 11/2 3/8, 11/3 and 11/3 1/2 cash.

August 19. --Today the market showed somewhat more firmness, all the banks drawing freely at 21/4 but finding few takers. Private paper could only be negotiated at 21/3. On France some private paper was passed at 44/3. Sovereigns closed at 11/2 3/8 soles, 11/2 1/2 buyers.

Aug. 21. --The banks adopted to-day the official rate of 21/16 and drew on head office at 21/2. Private paper was negotiated at 21/3, 21/16 and 21/16 on London and at 44/5 on France. Sovereigns sold at 11/2 3/8 and closed at 11/2 3/8 soles, 11/2 1/2 buyers.

Aug. 22. --The firmness in the market increased to-day, the banks drew at 21/16 on bankers and at 11/3 on head office, but finding few takers. Private paper on London could only be negotiated at 21/3. On France some business was done at 44/4 private and on Hamburg 21/47 private. Sovereigns closed at 11/2 3/8 soles, 11/2 1/2 buyers.

Aug. 23. --Today the market opened in the same condition in which it closed on the 22nd instant, the banks drawing at 21/16 on bankers and 21/3 on head office, and private paper being negotiable at 21/2.

Aug. 14	8	Six per cent aplices	1,066	00
	5	Ilancos do Brazil	295	00
100	16	Brazil Predial	140	50
	5	Alacach e Campos	225	00
	6	Companhia Agricola Pastozil	40	00
16	16	Brazil Predial hypo. n. with interest	781	75
	30	Associaçao Commercial (outside sale)	150	00
50	30	Santa Antonio de Padua R.R. do.	150	00
Aug. 15.				
21	36	Five per cent aplices	1,066	00
	25	Banco do Brazil	295	00
11	11	Alacach e Campos R.R.	225	00
50	5	S. Antonio de Padua R.R.	190	00

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27-28

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" 24	Tamor.....	Bahia, Macao, Pernambuco, St. Vincent, Lisbon, Southampton & Havre.
"	Mondego.....	Expected 24th August will leave for Santos.

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La Plata.....	" 23th
Bleat.....	" 30th

To Europe

Lazell.....	August 8th
Herschel.....	" 18th
Hippocampus.....	" 20th
Trinidad.....	" 28th

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Chidley.....	" 9th
Cromwell.....	" 16th
Carnegie.....	" 23rd
Cromwell.....	" 30th

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Kaiser.....	" 24th

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With the beginning of its ninth volume (January, 1882) the editors feel themselves warranted in calling attention to the uniform and general satisfaction with which their policy and management have thus far been received, and in advising their patrons that no deviation whatever from them will be made. THE NEWS will seek to keep its readers fully and accurately informed on all commercial questions, and upon all matters of Brazilian news or policy which may have more or less bearing upon any and all enterprises and investments. In its discussions it will treat every question frankly, and for the opinions expressed the editors will hold themselves personally responsible. In its news columns it will work to keep its readers fully informed on all matters and occurrences throughout Brazil.

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